REMARKS

Applicant submits the within amendment in response to the Official Action mailed December 5, 2002.

The disclosure was objected to because of certain informalities. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that, with regard to page 8, line 1, "7" should read -- 9 --. In response, applicant has amended the disclosure. In addition, the Examiner has stated that, beginning on page 6, a screen housing is repeated recited as "I," but Fig. 1 shows it as "1." In response, applicant has amended the disclosure to maintain consistency with one reference numeral. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-17, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Holz*, U.S. Patent 5,176,261. Specifically, the Examiner contends that *Holz* discloses all aspects of the claims including "a stator 32 mounted centrally within the housing" and "a rotary screen 26 rotatably mounted between the housing and the stator." (Official Action, ¶ 3.) *Holz*, however, requires the rotation of a rotor. (Col. 8, lns. 21-24.) *Holz* does not describe a screen that rotates (application at ¶ 35), but rather describes a screen cylinder 26 that is "secured in the housing" (col. 6, lns. 60-62).

In addition, the Examiner has stated that *Holz* discloses "at least one barrier member 50 extending radially from the stator to the rotary screen, whereby the accepted fiber suspension is substantially prevented from tangentially passing the at least one barrier member." (Official Action, ¶ 3.) *Holz*, however, discloses cleaning veins that "form alternatingly successive return regions 52 and supply regions 54 in the longitudinal direction of the strip." (Figs. 1, 3; col. 7, lns. 31-34.) *Holz* does not disclose barrier/pulse elements that extend in the axial direction along the entire stator, dividing

the accept chamber into a number of smaller accept cells to force the accept to either move axially to the accept outward or radially to the screen means. (Application, ¶¶ 18, 33.) Thus, since *Holz* does not disclose the foregoing, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Holz*. As previously noted, *Holz* fails to teach "a stator mounted centrally within the housing," "a rotary screen rotatably mounted between the housing and the stator," as well as "at least one barrier member extending radially from the stator to the rotary screen whereby the accepted fiber suspension is substantially prevented from tangentially passing the at least one barrier member." As such, *Holz* does not teach all the elements of claims 18-20, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

As it is believed that all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend paragraph [00027] as follows:

[00027] The screening apparatus shown in Fig. ~~1~~ 1 comprises a pressurized screen housing ~~1~~ 1 with an upper portion 2, which has a greater diameter than the lower portion 3 of the screen housing. In the upper portion 2 of the screen housing ~~1~~ 1 a substantially tangential inlet 4 is located for the fiber suspension to be separated, which in this example is a pulp suspension.

Amend paragraph [00028] as follows:

[00028] ~~suspension.~~ An accept outlet 5 for the accept is located substantially tangentially in the lower portion 3 of the screen housing ~~1~~1. A reject outlet 6 is located substantially axially and downwardly directed in the lower side of the upper portion 2, but radially outside the lower portion 3.

Amend paragraph [00029] as follows:

[00029] In the upper portion 2 of the screen housing a rotationally symmetrical screen means 7 is located so that it is rotary about a vertical rotor shaft 11. A stator 8 is located radially inside the screen means 7. The screen means 7 and stator 8 are arranged co-axially. The screen means 7 defines the upper portion 2 of the screen housing ~~1~~ 1 in a screen chamber 9 between the screen housing ~~1~~ 1 and screen means 7 and an accept chamber 10 between the screen means 7 and stator 8.

Amend paragraph [00035] as follows:

[0035] The pulp suspension to be separated is fed through the inlet 4 into the screen chamber 9. The rotating screen means 7 mechanically transfers energy to the pulp suspension in the screen chamber 9, which thereby follows the rotational direction of the screen means at the same time as it moves downwardly and thereby in a screwing movement moves down through the screen chamber ~~7~~9. When the screen means rotates, a suction pulse arises on the rear side of the barrier/pulse element 12, as seen in the rotational direction. The accepted fraction of the pulp suspension thereby flows through the rotating screen means 7 and into one of the accept cells, 10_1, 10_2, 10_3 or 10_4. The main portion of the accept thereafter flows down to the lower accept chamber 13 and out through the accept outlet 5.

Amend paragraph [00042] as follows:

[00042] In the embodiment shown in the drawings, the stator 8, screen means 7 and screen housing ~~1~~1 outside the screen means 7 all have the form of a cylinder. One or more of the stator, screen means and screen housing outside the screen means can also, for example, have a conical shape, with different or equal angular relations relative to one another. By forming the screen housing outside the stator, and forming the stator cylindrical or conical, it is possible to alter the accessible space between them. By changing, for example, the screen means from cylindrical to conical in shape, the relationship between accessible space in the screen chamber and the accept chamber, respectively, can be altered. If accessible space in axial direction thus becomes different, the space in the accept chamber should increase in the direction to the accept outlet, and the space in the screen chamber should be greatest at the inlet.